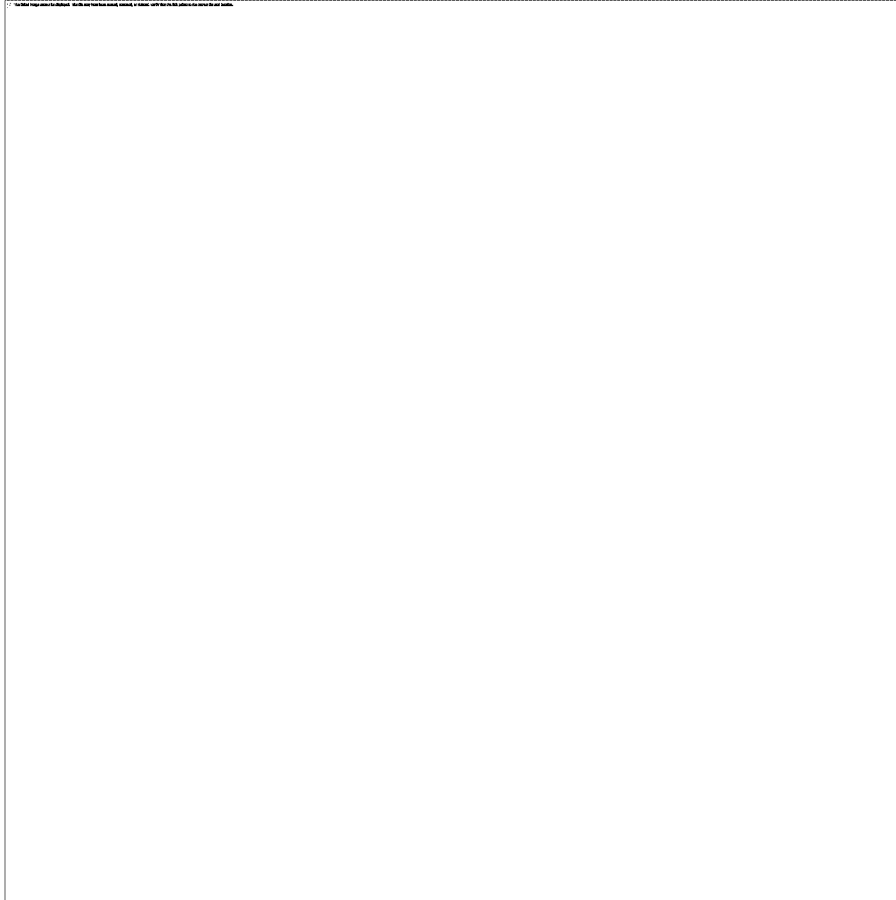


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NEWS UPDATE

February 28, 2019

Top Stories

Trade

U.S. Trade Chief Sees Long-Term China Challenges, Continued Tariff Threat

By David Lawder and Chris Prentice, Reuters • • Posted February 28, 2019

U.S. farmers have been among the hardest hit by retaliation from China, the top market for many of their products. Lighthizer said Trump's team is pushing China to promise to make "substantial" new purchases of U.S. products, including soybeans, corn, ethanol and cotton. The purchase plan is designed to secure future demand as well, he said. "Our hope is if you increase

those agriculture sales, you would create new customers and results that go out years and years and years and years,” Lighthizer said. [[read more ...](#)]

US Trade Representative Stresses Need to Keep Tariffs on Table to Hold China to Trade Deal

By Chris Clayton, DTN Staff Reporter • • Posted February 28, 2019

Beyond simply getting back the soybean market, Lighthizer said, negotiations should bring higher exports for other agricultural products going to China once an agreement is reached and tariffs come off. “They (U.S. farmers) are in a position where they should have enormous markets in China,” Lighthizer said. “There is a much bigger market there, and with any kind of fair trade, the farmers would be beneficiaries there too.” [[read more ...](#)]

E15

Trump Agencies Bicker Over Ethanol Plan as Higher Fuel Use Looms

By Mario Parker, Bloomberg • • Posted February 28, 2019

President Donald Trump’s pledge to his rural agricultural base to allow year-round sales of higher blends of ethanol is spurring differing opinions between two key federal agencies. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue told lawmakers in a House hearing on Wednesday that a final rule to allow widespread sales of those higher blends “won’t happen” by the summer-driving season following delays from the 35-day partial government shutdown. That sparked a swift response from the Environmental Protection Agency, which is writing the regulation and insists the measure is on track. [[read more ...](#)]

Despite October Promise From President, E15 Approval May Be Delayed

By Todd Neeley, DTN Staff Reporter • • Posted February 28, 2019

The EPA may not complete a final rule to allow year-round E15 in time for the summer driving season, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue told the House Agriculture Committee on Wednesday. The agency already faced a tight timeline to complete the rule, which was complicated by the recent partial government shutdown. Still, EPA has been saying publicly it was on track to finish the rule by June 1. [[read more ...](#)]

U.S. EPA ‘Very Likely’ to Finish E15 Gasoline Rule by Summer-Perdue

By Humeyra Pamuk, Reuters • • Posted February 28, 2019

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said on Wednesday he had been reassured by his counterpart at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the agency would “very likely” finish its rule allowing year-round sales of higher ethanol blends of gasoline in time for summer driving season. Perdue had told a Congressional hearing earlier in the day that EPA would probably fail to complete the rule in time, something that could have proven a setback for the agriculture industry keen to boost its sales of corn-based ethanol. [[read more ...](#)]

Policy & Politics

Republican Senator Opposes Trump EPA Pick Over Climate Change

By Timothy Gardner, Reuters • • Posted February 28, 2019

Republican U.S. Senator Susan Collins said on Wednesday she will oppose Andrew Wheeler, President Donald Trump's pick to head the Environmental Protection Agency, complicating the nominee's path to approval by the Senate. Collins said Wheeler's efforts to roll back standards on emissions blamed for climate change takes the country in the wrong direction. [read more ...]

Oil industry ramps up resistance to Trump's big ethanol plans

By John Siciliano and Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner • • Posted February 28, 2019

The oil industry is ramping up its fight against President Trump's forthcoming regulations to boost ethanol in the gasoline supply, calling them a bad deal for both the industry and consumers, while holding out the prospect of a legal fight. "This proposal is a lose-lose for our industry, but more importantly it's a lose-lose for consumers," Frank Macchiarola, head of downstream operations at the American Petroleum Institute, told John in a Wednesday morning interview. [read more ...]

RFA President Expects EPA Study To Show Ethanol's Benefits To Air Quality

By WNAX • • Posted February 28, 2019

The Environmental Protection Agency will conduct a long delayed study to assess the impact ethanol blended fuels have on air quality. The agency was pushed by a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club which is a well known critic of the Renewable Fuel Standard. Renewable Fuels Association President and CEO Geoff Cooper says he expects the study to show ethanol continues to be beneficial for the environment. [read more ...]

Op-Ed: Delay In SAFE Rule Disappointing, But Still An Opportunity

By Urban Air Initiative • • Posted February 28, 2019

EPA's decision to delay fuel economy rules until "later in the year" provides the Urban Air Initiative an opportunity to continue educating the agency on the benefits of clean octane from higher ethanol blends. Originally the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule was supposed to be finalized by March 2019. But last week, the Trump Administration announced the delay, largely due to failed negotiations with California to establish a single national efficiency standard. [read more ...]

Op-Ed: Airlines Are Leading the Way to a Greener Future

By Nancy Young, Morning Consult • • Posted February 28, 2019

Our members over the years have been leading the aviation industry toward a greener future that feeds economic growth while continuing to give our customers the choices and value they deserve. America's airlines have invested billions of dollars in new aircraft and technologies to improve fuel efficiency and decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and we've taken a leadership role in the development and deployment of sustainable alternative fuels. [read more ...]

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